

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 6 is added. Accordingly, claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Support for the amendment to claim 1 and for new claim 6 may be found, for example, in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 of the specification. Thus, no new matter is added.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 2-5 are allowed.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,166,801 to Dishon et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Figs. 7 and 8 of Dishon et al. show an optical axis of movable optical head 24 to be substantially perpendicular to the supporting plate 20. Therefore, Dishon et al. fails to disclose an optical axis of an imaging section that is substantially parallel to a loading plane of a loading section, as recited in claim 1. Further, Dishon et al. fails to disclose shifting an image section in a direction substantially perpendicular to a loading plane of a loading section, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Dishon et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

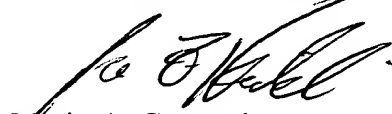
Claim 6 is dependent on claim 1, and is patentable over Dishon et al. for at least the reasons recited above with regard to claim 1, as well for the additional features it recites.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Jon F. Hadidi
Registration No. 46,427

MAC:JFH/ale

Date: December 1, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461